

# ANGLER GUIDE



## **Truman Lake** (West Central Region)

Information: 816/530-5500

**Black bass** fishing should continue to be very good for legal bass ( $\geq 15$ " ) and catch-and-release fishing for sublegal fish. **Crappie** fishing should be average. High angler harvest in the past has decreased the numbers of legal fish. Fishing for sublegal fish should be very good, as there are a lot of fish less than 9 inches. **White bass** and **hybrid striped bass** fishing should be good.

**Walleye** fishing should remain average. Catfishing for **blue, channel and flathead catfish** should be good. The best months are usually May through September. The **paddlefish** snagging season is March 15 through April 30. Snagging should be very good in the upper Osage from Talley Bend to Taberville with many fish  $>45$ lbs. The large population of paddlefish is being maintained through annual stockings by the Conservation Department.

## **Crappie**

Good crappie fishing is often found during the spring spawning season. Late April through early May usually is best. Spawning begins when water temperature at the nest warms to the mid-50's, and usually peaks in the low to mid-60's. Most spawning occurs in coves or near their mouths, but you might find crappie along any bank with a gravel or woody structure. Crappies will spawn at 6-inch to over 20-foot depths, depending upon the water clarity. The clearer the water, the deeper they spawn. Spawning crappies can be caught with jigs (1/32 to 1/8 ounce), minnows, or small crank baits or spinners. Jigs are preferred by most anglers. Fish brushpiles and standing timber where crappies concentrate. During spring, you might find crappie grouped off the bank around brushy structure and suspended at about the same depth as other spawning fish.

Crappies are typically hard to catch in summer and early fall, but fishing improves during October and November. Throughout this period, crappies are in deeper water (from 15 to 30 feet) at the mouths of coves or along steeper banks and bluffs. They still like to concentrate around woody structure. Fish with jigs or minnow, moving often to find the fish. Some anglers have success trolling along steeper banks with small, deep-running crankbaits. By October, crappies head into shallower water again, changing location and depth frequently. In addition to the steeper banks, try fishing around points.

Winter can be one of the best times for crappie fishing, if you're willing to brave the elements. Small jigs or minnows fished slowly around structure in deep water along steep banks or bluffs is usually the best method. Crappie hits can be light during winter so watch for line movement.

Truman Lake regulations for crappie are 9-inch minimum length limit and 15 daily. Truman Lake typically has good crappie fishing. High angler harvest in previous years has decreased the numbers of legal fish. This is a reflection of the heavy fishing pressure, as just over 60% of the

anglers are crappie anglers.

### **White Bass and Hybrid Striped Bass**

Reservoir white bass and hybrid striped bass fishing on Truman Lake is best from June through September. At this time fish are normally found in main lake areas near some kind of underwater structures (e.g., underwater humps, treelines etc.) or near drop-offs just outside flats and humps. White bass and hybrid striped bass may be caught by vertically jigging spoons or jigs, casting or trolling with crankbaits. Something to keep in mind is that the bulk of the diet of white and hybrid striped bass is gizzard shad so your baits should imitate shad (white, silver or silver and black are good colors). Mid to late summer is also the time when white and hybrid bass begin surface feeding on schools of gizzard shad. Schools of feeding bass are located by surface activity which usually occurs early in the morning or late in the evening. Casting small surface or shallow running crankbaits, jigs, or spinners into a feeding school of white bass can give incredible results. Catching fish on every cast or two fish per cast if jigs are tied in tandem is not uncommon. This type of feeding activity is somewhat unpredictable. Fall white and hybrid striped bass fishing typically involves fishing windy main lake points with deep diving crankbaits, jigs, or spinners. This activity usually starts in September and continues into November.

Truman Lake regulations for white bass and hybrid striped bass are 15 daily in the aggregate, no more than 4 daily can be larger than 18 inches. Truman Lake typically has good white bass and hybrid striped bass fishing.

### **Catfish**

Truman Lake has good catfish fishing for channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Catfishing is usually good in May through September. Anglers fish for catfish using several different methods, such as:

- Drifting with pole and line in the evenings over flats and shallow areas with shad.
- Setting trotlines next to the old river channel where the water depth changes abruptly from deep to shallow.
- Drifting jugs over the flats and shallow areas near the main channel and off points.
- Fishing rip rap areas along the dam and bridge abutments in June when catfish are spawning.
- And fishing with worms in vegetation on flooded flats when the lake is high.

Popular baits for channel catfish are shad, cut shad, and prepared baits; for blue catfish they are shad, cut shad, and live baits; and live baits (sunfish less than 5" or goldfish) are best for flathead catfish. Truman Lake regulations for channel and blue catfish are 10 daily in the aggregate and 5 daily for flathead catfish. Truman Lake typically has good catfish fishing.